

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05541 211019Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EB-07 ISO-00 /030 W

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R 210944Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9210

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5541

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, SY

SUBJECT: TURN-KEY GAS PLANT: MAJOR PROJECT

REF: DAMASCUS 2804 (T-161 OF MAY 5, 1976); STATE 126359

1. AMBASSADOR HAS ADDRESSED LETTER TO NEW SYRIAN MINISTER OF PETROLEUM ISA DARWICH REQUESTING EXTENSION OF BIDDING DEADLINE ON 50 MILLION DOLLAR TURNKEY GAS PLANT. ORIGINAL DEADLINE WAS AUGUST 5, 1976. WE HOPE EXTENSION WILL ENCOURAGE US FIRMS TO SUBMIT OFFERS.

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES LIST OF 58 FIRMS NOTIFIED BY USDOC OF THIS TRADE OPPORTUNITY. WE PASSED COPY OF LIST TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM NADER NABULSI. NABULSI INFORMS US, HOWEVER, THAT NO US FIRMS HAVE BID ON PROJECT. TEN FOREIGN FIRMS HAVE BID, ALL OFFERING FINANCING. ONLY US FIRM TO EXPRES INTEREST TO EMBASSY IN THIS PROJECT IS FISH ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION, PO 22535, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027. (FISH IS NOT ON USDOC LIST). IN REF B, USDOC INDICATED INTEREST ON PART OF BROWN AND ROOT, PROCON, AND BADGER. SO FAR AS WE KNOW, NONE OF THESE FIRMS HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY NOR MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM.

3. WE ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN TO SYRIANS THE APPARENT LACK
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OF INTEREST BY US ENTERPRISE IN THIS MAJOR PROJECT. ON

THE FACE OF THINGS, IT WOULD SEEM A MOST DESIRABLE
UNDERTAKING BY US FIRMS; SYRIA HAS THE RESOURCES FOR
EXPLOITATION, IT DESIRES US HELP IN DEVELOPING THIS KEY
SECTOR, US FIRMS HAVE THE EXPERTISE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
USDOC READING OF US FIRMS' REACTION TO THIS PROJECT AND
I POSSIBLE A RENEWED USDOC EFFORT TO STIMULATE INTEREST
AMONG SUCH FIRMS IN THE GAS PLANT.
MURPHY

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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